

(b) authorize offensive combat activities by United States Armed Forces in Iran, Syria, or any other state in the Middle East region.

SEC. 6. REPORT.

The President shall submit to Congress not later than 90 days after enactment of this joint resolution, and every 90 days thereafter, a report outlining the activities of the United States Armed Forces pursuant to this joint resolution, and on the progress that has been made in training the security forces of Iraq and promoting a sustainable political settlement.

SEC. 7. DURATION OF AUTHORIZATION.

The authorization under Section 4(a) shall expire on the date that is 12 months after the date of enactment of this joint resolution, unless Congress extends such authorization.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT SHOULD INCREASE BASIC PAY FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES

Mr. KERRY submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. CON RES. 34

Whereas the United States continues to rely extensively upon the personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard who are deployed overseas and stationed at military support installations within the United States;

Whereas uniformed services personnel, regardless of branch of service or whether serving in the active or a reserve component, have carried out their mission objectives with valor, distinction, and steadfast dedication to the cause of liberty and democracy;

Whereas 1,600,000 uniformed service men and women have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, many of whom have served multiple deployments;

Whereas there are currently more than 3,000,000 family members and dependents of those serving on active duty and reserve components;

Whereas nearly 40 percent of the members of the Armed Forces, while deployed away from their permanent duty stations, have left families with children behind;

Whereas over ½ of all service men and women who have deployed to Iraq are married;

Whereas military families have persevered in the face of challenges and continue to provide critically important comfort and care and numerous other contributions to their loved ones deployed overseas or stationed across the Nation;

Whereas there currently is a 4 percent gap between the pay of our service men and women and the private sector, and;

Whereas it is in our national interest to offer to the members of the Armed Forces comparable pay to that which the civilian sector provides in order to retain our highly qualified men and women in uniform and to faithfully reward their valiant service to our Nation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Congress and the President should increase basic pay for members of all components of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps by 3.5 percent, effective January 1, 2008; and

(2) Congress and the President should provide a special survivor indemnity allowance for persons affected by required Survivor Benefit Plan annuity offsets for dependency and indemnity compensation.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I am introducing a resolution to insure that our troops get the pay raise they deserve. We are all proud of our men and women in the American military who continue to perform magnificently in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. They represent the best that this country has to offer, and America owes them and their families a special debt of honor and gratitude. In light of their sacrifice, my resolution simply states that the Congress and the President should support a 3.5-percent increase in military pay in 2008 and provide a special survivor indemnity allowance to help American military families.

Unfortunately, these provisions are opposed by the Bush administration.

On May 16, the Office of Management and Budget's Statement of Administration Policy for the House fiscal year 2008 Department of Defense Authorization bill opposes section 644 of the bill, which would pay military families a monthly special survivor indemnity allowance from the Department of Defense Military Retirement Fund, calling the existing benefits "sufficient." The Statement of Administration Policy also "strongly opposes" the provision of the House bill which provides a 0.5-percent increase in military pay above the President's proposed 3.0 percent across-the-board pay increase, calling it "unnecessary."

I am concerned that the Bush administration's actions have failed to appropriately honor our military families who have made the ultimate sacrifice. These actions also stand in direct contrast to the will of the American people who support all efforts to support our troops.

Just go to the Military Times' own blog and read what the troops themselves say, more eloquently than any politician could put it: "If there is someone in the administration that feels that we, the hard working American soldiers, don't need additional pay raises, then maybe they should get from behind their desk and pick up a gun and vest and go stand guard at the entry control points in Iraq. And while they are out there, let's take away their 6 figure income and give them \$3.50 per day on top of anywhere from \$15 to \$45K per year. For all that we give to keep our country safe, the administration should at least want to help us eliminate any burden we may have financially. No I'm not saying make us rich and no one who enters the armed services expects to ever be rich but we don't expect to have to

take out loans just to put food on the table for our families either."

On this issue of fundamental fairness, the administration told Congress to back down. On this question, the troops will not back down and neither will we.

Those who have stood for us should know that we stand with them, today and always. Maintaining these provisions can do something to ease their burden, but truly supporting our troops requires that we act not just as individuals, but as a nation. I ask all my colleagues to support this resolution to honor our troops and our military families.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1255. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1256. Mr. REID (for Mr. DORGAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 398, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1255. Mr. BOND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 602 and insert the following:
SEC. 602. PROHIBITION ON ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS FOR Z NONIMMIGRANTS.

(a) PROHIBITION ON IMMIGRANT VISAS.—A Z nonimmigrant may not be issued an immigrant visa pursuant to section 221 or 222 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201 and 1202).

(b) PROHIBITION ON ADJUSTMENT.—The status of a Z nonimmigrant may not be adjusted to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

SA 1256. Mr. REID (for Mr. DORGAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 398, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act to identify and remove barriers to reducing child abuse, to provide for examinations of certain children, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 20, strike lines 10 through 13 and insert the following:

(a) OFFENSES COMMITTED WITHIN INDIAN COUNTRY.—Section 1153(a) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking "felony child abuse or neglect" and inserting "felony child abuse, felony child neglect".

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session